

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 4, line 10:.

Figure 1 represents a digital communications system 140 within which the present invention may be embodied. As shown, the digital system 140 comprises a discrete-time channel 142 interposed between an encoder 144 and a decoder 130, which includes a memory module 131. Discrete-time channel 142 comprises a modulator 146, a channel 148 and a demodulator 150. An interleaver 145 is interposed between the encoder 144 and the modulator 146. A deinterleaver 151 is interposed between the decoder 130 and the demodulator 150. Channel 148 may be a transmission channel or a storage medium being written to and read from. Interleaver 145 receives a digital output signal from a rate matching circuit 147, which in turn receives a digital signal from an encoder 144. The interleaver 145 interleaves this digital output signal over a certain time period, which is usually predetermined and known as a frame. Modulator 146 serves to translate the digital output signal from interleaver 145 into signals suitable for channel 148 and thereafter drives the signals across channel 148.